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Parking Facility

Claim of Priority

10 This application claims the benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119 (e) to U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/560,337, filed April 6, 2004, titled "Method for Identifying Cars in Parking Garage", hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety.

15 The present invention relates to a parking facility which helps locate cars parked in a large garage.

 It is customary today to build multi-level garages in which cars can be parked on many different levels over a wide area. Very often when a car is parked in such a garage, the owner of the car may have difficulty recalling where the car was parked when it is time to retrieve it. This problem can arise in many situations, even when the cars are parked on
20 a single level, particularly where the area covered by the garage or parking lot is large, such as at an airport or the like.

 The present invention provides a simple and convenient way for a car owner to locate a parked car regardless of the size of the garage or parking lot in which the car was left.

25 The Drawing

 Figure 1 illustrates one floor of a multi-level indoor garage showing a number of parked cars in combination with the invention; and

5 Figure 2 is an enlarged view of a ticket that can be used in accordance with the invention.

Detailed Description

In accordance with the invention, each space in a parking garage or parking lot includes a multiplicity of identical tickets 10 stored on a retention member 14.

10 A ticket that may be used in accordance with a preferred embodiment is shown enlarged on the right hand side of the drawing. It is preferably color coded and includes a hole 12 so that it can be easily stored and removed from retention member 14 which may be a simple hook. At the bottom of the ticket a designation 16 appears which identifies the parking space corresponding to the ticket. Typically, the parking space will be designated by row and position within the row, with the ticket color identifying the floor of the garage
15 or the area of the parking lot. Obviously, there are many different ways in which the parking space can be identified in accordance with the invention.

As shown in the drawing, a multiplicity of individual tickets 10 are retained on the hook 14 at each parking space. When an individual parks his car in a particular space, he removes one of the tickets 10 from the hook 14 at that space. The ticket size is such that it
20 can be conveniently carried by the individual and referred to later when it is time to retrieve the car. Since there are a multiplicity of cards at each parking space, it is not necessary that the car owner replace the ticket when he returns.

It is contemplated that the tickets will contain advertising or other promotional materials. Thus, from the perspective of the owner of the garage or parking lot, the cost of
25 installing and maintaining the individual tickets at each of the parking spaces will be paid for by the advertisers. As an example, the ticket 10 shown in the drawing contains an advertisement for a Ford Explorer.